

THE INTERNATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on receiving an International Teaching Fellowship. As part of the twenty-sixth group of International Teaching Fellows you are joining a special group of outstanding Victorian teachers. You have been selected because of your experience, your outstanding record as a teacher and your ability to represent Victorian education overseas.

The goal of the International Teaching Fellowship Program is professional development through the opportunity to actively participate in overseas education system. Experiences will vary from school to school and different personalities and interests will provide and produce different emphases.

The Department of Education takes every care to ensure ITFs are appropriately matched, although the final agreement to the match is by the teacher and principal. This booklet aims to assist you in your preparations for your Fellowship and will provide you with guidelines to hopefully ensure your Fellowship is a successful one.

The communication you will have with your exchanging ITF before departure will play an essential part in the success of your Fellowship year. Not only is honesty the best policy, it should be the only way of relating to your exchange partner both in setting up arrangements before leaving home and in negotiations throughout the year. This applies not only to factual information, but also to expectations.

Local previous Fellows are probably your best source of information. Everybody has a different experience, but most love to talk about it. Recently returned ITFs are the best equipped to answer detail on the local overseas domestic situation such as enrolling children in schools, costs of living, travel, etc. What they have experienced will be generally similar to what you will find.

Prepare for the year with an **open mind**. Be ready to make the most of what presents. Sound planning before leaving home creates the security needed to be **flexible** and **adaptable** and enjoy the fun of the year. Don't hesitate to ask for assistance. People are generally friendly and willing to help out.

FINANCE

General

Fellows should give immediate and careful consideration to finance. The cost of living overseas may be much higher, salaries will most likely not be equivalent, and the exchange rate is guaranteed to fluctuate. Additional savings might not be just helpful but a necessity.

Sufficient funds should be allowed to cover expenses such as:

- (i) Financial commitments in relation to personal house, car and property while overseas eg. solicitor, accountant, real estate agent, regular bills (insurance, rates), costs for repair and maintenance in preparation for departure and possibly on return, personal needs in advance of departure (legal documents, clothing....)
- (ii) Travel costs eg. airline tickets, travel insurance, incidentals enroute and on arrival (excess baggage, accommodation, food)

Costs may be incurred before your first pay arrives. Allow for delays in your salary coming through, the banks being closed the day you arrive, delays in travel or emergencies.

Costs above your salary might very well range between \$10,000 and \$20,000, or more, depending on your financial commitments, lifestyle, a number of dependents. (The exchange of that dreaded junk mail can be a good guide to the costs of consumer items). Also remember to inform your exchange partner about the GST.

Salaries

Banking can be a headache. We rely on our money being available when we need it and every country has a different system. It is advisable that each organisation with which you have financial dealings is informed of your Fellowship. Enquiries should be made concerning the services available which might assist in arrangements for the deposit and transfer of funds and/or payment of bills in your absence. A friend/relative/accountant/solicitor might be nominated and/or given power-of-attorney in order to deal with any home/banking problems during your exchange. Make sure all parties concerned (eg. bank manager) know of these arrangements.

All ITFs must have their salaries paid into an approved bank, credit union or building society in Australia.

If you wish to change the destination or details of your account, obtain a form from the institution of your choice or from your school. This should be lodged with the bursar at the school.

There are various ways of accessing your salary while you are overseas. You may choose to make arrangements through your regular bank, however you may need to investigate the costs of some methods and services they offer. Past Fellows have found that either the Victorian Teachers Credit Union or Ed. Credit are familiar with the needs of an ITF.

Adequate identification (birth certificate, passport, a letter of introduction from the bank) is helpful and often required to complete bank transactions overseas. Reciprocal agreements sometimes apply in overseas countries, if you wish to join equivalent overseas automobile clubs or teacher organisations for example they will require your Australian membership card.

Pay advice slips cannot be forwarded to you directly from the Department of Education. You must arrange this through your school. (Perhaps leave a number of addressed envelopes behind to make this easier for the office staff at your school)

Group Certificates

At the end of each financial year ITF's Group Certificates will be forwarded to their Victorian schools.

ITFs must advise their schools of where they want the Group Certificate sent, eg. to an accountant, relative, or to their overseas address

Taxation

Applications may be made to the Australian Taxation Office requesting an extension of time for lodgement of a tax return until your return Australia. This application should be made well before departure and extension may or may not be granted.

You should keep any receipts and an accurate record of all financial matters. These might be helpful later in submitting an income tax return. **Advise you to find a good Taxation Agent.** Former ITFs are a good source of information and may be able to advise/help you find one.

Canada and United States of America

There are a number of Double Taxation Agreements in force between Australia, United States of America and Canada, which may result in payment overseas tax. The main purpose of such agreements is to ensure that tax is not paid in two countries but is paid in at least one.

The International Education and Marketing Branch will provide the Australian Taxation Office with advice in writing of the Fellowship and the date of the absence.

When the International Education and Marketing Branch receives written advice from the Taxation Office, the Teacher Personnel Services Unit will be advised to cease taxation deductions from your salary. It is possible that financial years might overlap and you may be required to file additional income tax returns. For teachers in non-government schools, the advice from the Australian Taxation Office will be forwarded to the schools business manager.

Canada only - Teachers going to Canada on exchange for more than 183 days in any Canadian financial year will be subject to Canadian tax. The Canadian financial (tax) year is from 1 January to 31 December and the filing date is on or before 30 April.

United States of America only - For those teachers going on an exchange to this country, Article 15 of the US Convention applies and they will be required to pay tax in the USA if the period of the exchange exceeds 183 days during the US tax year. The USA financial (tax) year is from January 1 to December 31.

United Kingdom/New Zealand

Fellows going to the United Kingdom and New Zealand are exempt from income tax there for up to two years. Australian income tax continues to be deducted from your salary by the Department or your employer each fortnight.

If accompanying spouses are employed in the United Kingdom or New Zealand and deriving income from a source in either country, they will generally be required to pay income tax in that country.

France/Germany/Japan/Switzerland

Fellowships to France, Germany, Japan and Switzerland are subject to Australian tax as you are still being paid by the Department and are not subject to taxation in these countries. If an accompanying spouse is employed in either of these countries and deriving income from a source in either country and is taxed in that country, then Australian income tax will not apply to earnings during the period of employment outside Australia.

GENERAL AND HEALTH INSURANCE

While on a Fellowship you continue to be paid by the Department or your employer. As an officer of the Department you will retain your entitlements to Workcover but in most countries you are not covered by Medicare for medical or hospital expenses incurred whilst overseas. However, you are still liable to pay the Medicare levy.

The exceptions are teachers exchanging to the United Kingdom and New Zealand who are covered by reciprocal health arrangements.

Health insurance should be investigated and decisions made before you leave home. Medical and hospital costs vary greatly from country to country. You should correspond carefully with your exchange partner in regard to specific costs, available assistance, recommended or adequate coverage and a doctor close to your accommodation.

The options, which you might consider in arranging for health/travel insurance, include:

- (i) Continuing contributions to your chosen health fund in Australia. Some private health funds in Australia offer additional coverage for persons travelling overseas. There may be conditions that apply and usually the teacher pays the entire medical and hospital costs initially and then applies for reimbursement. You should contact individual companies for more information.
- (ii) Join a travel insurance plan available in Australia. Travel insurance policies provide a broad cover which usually includes cancellation, luggage, travel documents, personal accidents, liability and medical. It's wise to read the complete policy, paying particular attention to procedures for reimbursement, dependant children, exempted activities and limits on costs (total coverage, payment in excess, pre-existing conditions).

Two firms, which have been of assistance to ITFs in previous years, are:

Mr. Peter Dalton
Mutual Insurance Agencies Pty Ltd
7/196 Gladstone Street
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

Tel: (06) 280 7366
Fax: (06) 280 7939

Mr. Ron Stone.
Living Language Tours
607 -609 Eureka Street
BALLARAT VIC 3352

Tel: (03) 5333 2772
Fax: (03) 5333 1347

Ordinary travel insurance is not sufficient. We suggest you investigate special cover especially for teachers on exchange.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Passports

All ITFs (and their dependents) must be in possession of an Australian passport, which is valid for six months longer than their stay overseas. It is the responsibility of each ITF to obtain a valid passport to enable them to undertake their Fellowship. Passports should be obtained or renewed immediately as they will be required in order to obtain necessary visas.

The International Education and Marketing Branch will advise you if you need to attend a medical examination in order to obtain a visa as this is not a requirement for all countries. It may be worth checking with your exchanging ITF to see if medical records or a medical examination is required to enrol your children in an overseas school.

Vaccinations against smallpox are no longer necessary, unless an individual has been in a smallpox area within one month of arrival overseas. An ITF travelling extensively while overseas must check whether any vaccinations might be required for entry/re-entry to any country.

Visas

Entry requirements vary between countries. Visas are obtained from the Embassies or Consulates of each country to be visited. The International Education and Marketing Branch contact the Consuls-General advising them of the ITF nominations and asking them to provide assistance to ITFs to obtain their visas.

Visas and Work Permits for USA

In order to obtain a work permit for the USA a person must be sponsored by an individual or organisation in the USA.

The International Agreements Unit gives the sponsor details of each ITF, ie. name, date and place of birth, proposed address in the USA, employment details, starting and finishing dates and annual salary converted to US dollars. Similar details of any accompanying persons will also be given. This information enables the sponsor to obtain for the Department the Immigration Sponsorship forms known as the IAP66. An IAP66 will enable you to obtain J-1 visas, ie: 12 month working visas and your dependents to obtain J-2 visas ie. 12 month residency visas.

The IAP66 sponsorship forms will require some additional details to be completed by the ITFs. For visas issued in this way the teacher and his or her family **MUST** enter the USA **TOGETHER** as a family group. If crossing borders during the year (eg. entering Canada and Mexico), they **MUST** enter the USA **TOGETHER**.

If for any reason this is not possible, you must advise the consul when applying for your visas, as a separate application may be required. Other family members should have a photocopy of the teacher's pink IAP66 form with their passport. This proves their status as 12 month residents.

It is suggested that Fellows have a couple of photocopies of the IAP66. Since the IAP66 is quite valuable, copies should be carried with the Fellow rather than have them packed in luggage. Every attempt should be made to travel together as a family. **Travelling separately may cause logistical delays in travel plans.**

Visas and Work Permits for Canada

All ITFs going to Canada should have received Canadian visa forms. These forms should be returned to the International Agreements Unit as soon as possible to avoid delays. The International Agreements Unit will also forward details for the medical procedure. The Canadian Consulate will issue visas and documentation will be sent to the International Agreements Unit who will then send documentation to the teachers concerned.

ITFs to Canada would be well advised to obtain a US tourist visa as well. This is entirely the ITFs own responsibility to organise and you will need it if you plan to travel in and out of the USA from Canada or through the USA to Canada. For more details contact: ***USA Travel Information Service 1902 262 682*** or your travel agent.

Visas and Work Permits for United Kingdom

Each teacher and dependent going to Britain will require to have a passport valid for six months longer than their stay in the United Kingdom. All teachers and dependents must be in possession of a valid Entry Clearance issued by an officer at the British High Commission or Consulate Office. Teachers and dependents who do not have an entry clearance risk being refused entry into the United Kingdom.

A more detailed account of immigration arrangements has been sent to you from the LECT as a part of their ITF package.

Particular care should be taken in the case of applications for children from previous marriages. The parent must either provide proof that they have sole custody of the child, or the written approval of the child's other natural parent that they have no objections to the child residing in the UK.

Applications to “**enter or remain on the basis of a common law relationship will be refused on the grounds that there are no provisions for it in the rules**”. Teachers to whom this situation applies will need to consider taking one of the following options:

- a) Apply for a 6 month visitors visa;
- b) Marry; or
- c) Consider travelling alone.

In the case of all applications, please apply as far in advance as possible. Once issued, entry clearances are valid for use within 6 months. It is not possible to give ITFs priority over other applicants.

LOTE ITF Visas

Fellows who have been awarded a LOTE exchange will be advised of procedures relating to visas for their particular country.

PERSONAL PREPARATIONS

Spouses

Spouses and partners are initially more likely to move into a less structured lifestyle than the ITF and any school age children. For many it will mean a year out of the full-time workforce. Each person will adapt differently. For most, it will be a chance to follow up on other interests. It will be very much up to the individual to make the most of what offers, and usually there will be plenty of opportunities.

If the spouse decides to work, it is important to check both employment arrangements between countries and the accreditation process as early as possible. If the qualifications are in a field other than teaching there may be delays in professional or trade accreditations due to different training styles and requirements.

Past ITFs whose spouses are also teachers have found that they have been able to pick up occasional work as "Supply Teachers" or as "Replacement Teachers". They have advised that to do as much paper work as possible before departure (eg. writing to School Boards with qualifications and experience etc.), avoids delays in registration upon arrival and in subsequently obtaining work. The requirements of each state/province vary, so advise you to either contact past ITFs or to discuss the procedures with your exchanging ITF.

ITFs whose spouses are also employees of the Department of Education should apply through the school for leave without pay for 2000 by indicating that their spouse is a 2000 ITF.

Please note that many countries do not accept defacto relationships, for immigration/visa purposes check with individual consulates for the procedures relating to defacto partners.

Children

Check whether a school uniform is compulsory, or if not compulsory check whether one is worn by most students. You may consider the possibility of swapping uniforms and clothing with your exchangee's children for the year.

Check the nature of the school program for curriculum related activities and outings for which parents will be expected to pay for example school camps. An estimate of possible school costs will help with planning your budget. Check the likely cost of school books and method of funding for school supplies. Books and supplies for students are likely to vary considerably from country to country.

Clothing

Remember not to take too much. It will take up unnecessary space. What to take and what to leave behind should probably depend on what you know about expected standards of dress for the various settings you are likely to be. Check with your counterpart about school social and recreational dress codes.

Housing

Housing is a key issue in the quality of the exchange experience. For approximately twelve months your home will be home to somebody else and vice versa. It is inevitable that your house and its contents will be a little bit different when you return, and you will leave your exchanging ITF's house in a little different state too. If you are to relax at "home" you may need to re-arrange things such as the linen press to meet your needs or bring the place mats to the front so that your children can reach them.

One of the purposes of requesting photographs of each ITF's home is to be assured that accommodations are appropriate. The Department cannot be involved in disputes regarding the adequacy or comparability of accommodation. Arrangements with respect to the use of personal property and financial arrangements between ITFs are personal matter. The size, standard and location of the house are easy to describe, however they are usually less important than the need to develop a SHARED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF STANDARDS OF CARE.

- Expectations about housekeeping standards should be shared
- Expectations about the state of the house at the beginning and end of the exchange need to be discussed
- Accept that there will be some wear and tear on your home and that something will probably get broken. This would also happen if you lived in your home for a year. Remember you will be doing the same to their home.

If your ideas are shared then there is a greater chance of coming up with an agreed set of expectations. If both parties' expectations remain different you should think carefully about continuing with the exchange before it starts. Expectations don't have to be the same for a successful exchange but sharing of values around the care and condition of the two homes leads to a more confident and comfortable exchange because it saves anxiety during your year away. The more arrangements agreed to in writing beforehand, the less cause for dispute later.

Both parties should give thought to the likely needs of the incoming individual or family. Suitable space needs to be left for clothing, toys, boot sporting equipment etc. Articles that are irreplaceable or very expensive should be stored in a safe place if possible.

As much information as possible should be exchanged about the heating and cooling of the house. It seems that the nature of domestic heating particular provides a wonderful opportunity for cultural adjustment, for example Australian houses are not always centrally heated.

Be prepared to become a conversion expert. Weights and measures might sound alike but are in fact different. For example, an American tablespoon not the same as an Australian one. Temperatures may be measured differently, and having a quick converter available could save many a meal early the exchange. Perhaps arrange to leave behind conversion charts.

Gardening probably presents one of the biggest challenges. Not only will the seasons come at the wrong time of the year, but many of the plants will be unrecognisable. Because teaching breaks become travelling and vacation time, you might not choose to spend your weekends and evenings agonising over what is a weed and what is an exotic native. Clear expectations need to be established around gardening responsibilities.

If a house is not on a town reticulated water supply it will be necessary for the incoming ITF to develop a knowledge of the system used. For example if your home is on rainwater tanks, the incoming ITF will need to know things such as current capacity and how that might convert to usage levels.

Leave instructional manuals or at least written instructions for all appliances. Also leave names and addresses of local repair people. If you know an appliance is reaching the end of its useful life, choose a replacement model and leave it with the person who has your power of attorney. You cannot leave the incoming ITF without a stove, washer etc.

Every country has a different culture when it comes to paying bills. It may be useful to exchange a list of the expected billing dates. You may find that bills come more/less frequently than you are accustomed to.

As a result they may seem very large or pleasantly small. Pre-warning about payment spacing will help and knowledge about average costs will be use when preparing your "expected" budget for the year.

It is essential that both your home and your home overseas is left clean. Even when you have the best intentions, time becomes very short when y are organising to leave or return home. You might consider hiring a cleaning service.

Set exact dates for which the accommodation on both sides will be available.

Again, be fair and be honest. In cases of serious disputes, only members of the legal profession can help you and usually the cost of litigation will : outweigh any satisfaction you receive. Moreover, before the year is over you and your exchange will know many of the same people in bc countries. If you are less than fair, honest, and reasonable, your reputation will suffer.

You may also wish to leave a video for the incoming ITF. It could include visual information on appliances and their idiosyncrasies, details about whe to find what, hints on how to cope with different weather conditions, identification of plants and their drinking habits and a wide range of other detai An index to the video would be an advantage when needing to access information quickly.

Remember that North American and Australian videos are technically incompatible. This of course is not a problem for videos left for your counterpart.

Perhaps try labelling items. One item can have different names. Labelling is both useful in locating household items, and in remembering what was where when you prepare to leave at the end of the year.

Frequent correspondence from the beginning, photographs, newspaper cuttings, sale flyers and telephone calls all help to establish good relationships.

Remember that your new neighbour will be a good source of "local knowledge".

SEE ALSO SECTION IN HOUSE AND SCHOOL BOOKLET

Cars

The Department of Education advises ITFs **not** to exchange cars. The reasons are many. Because of the amount of travelling done in a Fellowship year, mileage can mount very quickly. Cars by their nature need regular care and maintenance and some persons are more diligent than others. It is difficult to apportion cost of major repairs should the need occur. Insurance can be a problem if an accident occurs. Moreover, cars rarely turn out to be compatible. You may help your counterpart by investigating the costs of leasing or buying a vehicle for the period, or by identifying local dealers who can be trusted to deal fairly.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE USE OF CARS.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

An important concern of ITFs is adjusting to fit into a foreign school system. An ITF must be flexible and willing to accept differences. If you are well informed about your overseas school and its community the task of settling in is much easier. An ITF must begin gathering information that might facilitate professional adjustment. However, remember that:

- No two schools are alike even within a single school system.
- You should be careful not to generalise.
- By far the most useful information is likely to be that which comes from your counterpart about his/her school.

Past ITFs have recommended that in communicating with your counterpart you should take nothing for granted and you should not be hesitant in requesting detailed information. You may also consider writing to the local education authority/country and request information on policy and employment contracts. The following points may be of assistance to you in your correspondence:

(i) National organisations and policies in regard to school:

- general structure-state, independent or private schools
- types of schools and age grouping of students
- funding for schools
- existence of nation-wide exams

(ii) The local system:

- general structure and organisation-school board, governing body, and school administrators
- making and implementing local policy

(iii) Your new school:

- the school calendar, including semesters, term dates, holidays and exam periods
- accepted manner of dress
- school philosophy and curriculum
- subjects you are to teach and the ages and backgrounds of your students
- the syllabus for the courses you are to teach and possible role of the teacher and administrator in setting the syllabus
- the use of text books, team teaching and availability of teaching aids for use in the classroom
- the type/s of student evaluation and reporting and how they are used
- daily routines including hours of duty, teaching timetable, non-teaching duties and time available for preparation
- dates of scheduled conferences and arrangements for non-teaching days
- degree of flexibility about time out/time off "cover"

In addition most ITFs will have the added difficulty of taking over another teacher's class mid-year. It may be a good idea to discuss ways of preparing the students for your arrival (for example, a mutual swap of photographs and/or informal letters prior to your departure from Australia).

You should not hesitate to explore in the overseas school the possibility of contributing in any additional areas in which you have expertise eg. sports, music, drama.

Consideration should be given to taking teaching materials and aids as well information about Victoria and Australia. You may wish to take brochures, posters and information about Victoria and Australia. Try contacting the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, QANTAS or Australian Airlines, Tourism Victoria, the AFL, travel agents etc....

You must arrive overseas in sufficient time to recover from jet lag, to make the appropriate contacts, to finalise personal and professional arrangements and to handle emergencies. An early arrival is likely to ease the physical and emotional strain of settling in. The purchase of a three month airline ticket provides more time for adjustments at either end of the Fellowship.

You will be required to nominate a person (SEE CONTACT FORMS) who will pick up your counterpart at the airport when they arrive in Australia. It is advisable you discuss the possibility of a mutual arrangement with your counterpart as such an arrangement is especially helpful to families.

SEE ALSO SECTION IN HOUSE AND SCHOOL BOOKLET

Materials and Information

All ITFs are expected to be conversant with the structure and workings of the Victorian education system. This includes government and non-government primary, post-primary, TAFE and tertiary sectors.

Victorian teachers please note: Overseas teachers will need to have detailed syllabuses and courses of study. Victorians should either send syllabus or arrange to have them in a place where they can be studied by the overseas ITF before the school year begins. Teachers of Year 11/12 whose classes will be taken by incoming ITFs must send copies of the VCE study materials, courses etc., drawing attention to the subject prescriptions and add fully detailed comments of their own.

It is suggested that all ITFs should consider arranging to have the Victorian School News sent to them. The professional contact you nominate should also forward other information of interest and relevance to you.

Contact Forms

ITFs will be supplied with Contact Forms at the Briefing Day. These forms are our records of your nominated power of attorney, your professional contact and your nominee who will meet your counterpart at the airport. You should complete these forms as soon as possible and forward copies to:

Ms Rachel Crellin
International Education and Marketing Branch
Department of Education
GPO Box 4367
MELBOURNE 3001

HOUSE AND SCHOOL BOOKLET

The **House and School Booklet**, is designed to give you basic information about essential items in the house, household maintenance, shopping, the community and the school.

Some of the information in the House and School Booklet will be useful for your exchangee before they leave their home, and some of it is vital during the exchange year. Therefore it is expected that you send a completed copy to your exchangee as soon as possible as well as leave the original in an obvious place in your home eg: the kitchen table) for your exchangee to find when they arrive. (It is important to also leave a copy as your exchangee may forget to take the copy with them).

Your exchangee has also been sent a House and School booklet and given the same instructions.

USEFUL INTERNET ADDRESSES

EDUCATION:

OFSTED report of each school (UK) - <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>

LECT (UK) - http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/lectcom_exchange/

Alberta - <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/>

British Columbia - <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/>

Colorado Newcomer - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/newcomer.htm>

Manitoba - <http://www.gov.mb.ca/educate>

Minnesota - <http://children.state.mn.us/>

New Zealand - <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/>

Northern Ireland - <http://www.deni.gov.uk/>

Nova Scotia - <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/>

Ontario - <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/>

Search Engine for Education - <http://excite.netscape.com/education/>

American Schools Directory - <http://www.asd.com/>

International School Directory - <http://web66.umn.edu/schools.html>

TRAVEL:

Travel Page - <http://www.travel.com/>

British Tourist Authority - <http://www.bta.org.au/>

General Information on different cities and countries - <http://city.net>

Lonely Planet - <http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au/>

Apple Travel - <http://www.appletravel.com.au/>

GENERAL:

Currency Converter - <http://www.xe.net/currency/>

World Time - <http://www.whitepages.com.au/time.shtml> /
<http://www.isbister.com/worldtime>

Teachers helping teachers exchange - <http://www.angelfire.com/ca/zael/index.html>

Resources for people moving/living overseas - <http://www.escapeartist.com/>

AUSTRALIAN SITES

Department of Education - <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au>

Government of Victoria - <http://www.vic.gov.au>

Australian Commonwealth Government - <http://fed.gov.au/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics - <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

ABC - <http://www.abc.net.au/>

Channel 9 - <http://ninemsn.com.au/>

Channel 7 - <http://www.seven.com.au/>

The Age - <http://www.theage.com.au/>

AFL - www.afl.com.au

CONCLUSION

The following list was compiled by returned ITFs as suggestions for an "ITF SURVIVAL KIT"

- minimum clothes
- sense of wonder, discovery and adventure
- money (generally more of it)
- Australiana, particularly posters, videos, recipes (personal and Australian), books, lollies
- having a good knowledge of your visa requirements
- your curriculum vitae and personal documents on a computer disk
- evidence of spouse's qualifications
- humour, flexibility and versatility
- diplomacy, keep smiling
- be prepared to deal with anything that turns up and have FUN
- Australian coins, postage stamps, writing paper, Christmas cards, thank you cards
- perseverance and acceptance
- an understanding partner/family or significant person
- personal business cards
- Australian videos, especially soaps!
- potato peeler
- making links with other ITFs prior to departure and take the ITF address book
- leave a good power of attorney and professional contact (and a reserve in case the first one comes to visit)
- a plan for personal emergencies
- personal photographs of your home and school. Many people find it difficult to comprehend our lifestyles

Be optimistic and enthusiastic, but at the same time expect discrepancies and prepare yourself to accept and adapt with the minimum of fuss. You may find it necessary to make the most of a disappointing situation, but rarely are things as hopeless as they initially seem. Appreciate that there are a variety of approaches to education. Attempt to learn from your experiences and to develop additional skills. Remember that you are an ambassador for your employing authority and Australia and be tactful if voicing concerns.

FINALLY, WE WISH YOU A WONDERFUL AND REWARDING INTERNATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

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